



POETRY

OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

2013 Arizona

Recitation

State Finals

**E I G H T
ARIZONA PBS
PHOENIX
ARIZONA**

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Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to the **Eighth Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**. Tonight's event is the culmination of months of participation by high school students and teachers all across the state of Arizona. Over 13,000 high school students and 51 schools participated in the program this year. Those of you here to witness tonight's recitations are in for a rare treat.

Many of you here already know what we are about to experience. Witnessing these students recite poems of their choosing is quite amazing. Through the commitment and dedication of teachers across our state, students who participate in Poetry Out Loud build public speaking skills, and learn about their literary heritage.



Pictured: 2012 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finalists representing Arizona high schools at the State Finals competition. Photo Credit: Joe Jankovsky.

To the students who are here today to compete: Congratulations on your accomplishment. What you have achieved in representing your schools and your regions at the state finals is no small feat.

To the teachers and parents who accompanied the students today: Thank you. Thank you for your commitment to instilling skills in our students that will stay with them beyond this program and beyond today; skills that will help them be competitive in a 21st century workforce.

To our partners who make the program possible: Your dedication to serving your community and the Arizona arts industry is remarkable. Thank you for the opportunity you've provided these students. Special thanks to our new partner, ON Media Publications.

To the audience: Poetry Out Loud is one of the many arts programs in our state that delivers the benefits of arts education to our young people. Through these programs, students often improve their academic performance, demonstrate greater leadership and social skills, and develop advanced creative problem solving. We invite you to learn more about how you can support and protect the arts for future generations of Arizonans at **www.thechoiceisart.org**.

Finally, it is with great gratitude that we thank Eight, Arizona PBS for working with us this year to provide a wonderful performing space in their studio.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.C. Booker", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

*Robert C. Booker, Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts*

Welcome



City of Phoenix

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR GREG STANTON



Greetings!

The vibrant and growing City of Phoenix boasts a breadth of businesses, restaurants, hotels, entertainment, arts and cultural institutions and more.

One of the many things that make our city unique is the breadth of outstanding nonprofit arts and culture organizations. These organizations serve neighborhoods and communities, provide programs and services for citizens and visitors in countless ways, and have an annual economic impact of over \$300 million. For these reasons and more, Phoenix is a fitting host for this year's *Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals*.

Though I cannot attend tonight, I am pleased to congratulate the teachers and school administrators who brought this program to their schools over the past months. The guidance you provide to these students through POL will stay with them as they move into their next year at school or transition to their next steps beyond high school. The self confidence and public speaking opportunity the program gives student participants is remarkable.

My gratitude and congratulations also go to the Arizona Commission on the Arts and its distinguished regional partners, for bringing this program to our state. The services you provide bring impactful arts education experiences to students of all ages, all across the state.

And to the student competitors that have worked so hard to get to the state finals competition, you are to be commended for this accomplishment. Be proud of the time you committed to deepening your understanding of a great art form, and to building a skill set that will serve you time and time again.

And finally, to participants, facilitators and audience members, welcome to Phoenix. If you have time, visit our museums, explore the public art along the Light Rail line and beyond, or see a show. Make yourself at home here in Phoenix; a city where we take great pride that the arts are embedded in community, and artists and arts educators are valued and deeply respected.

Sincerely,

Mayor Greg Stanton



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www.twitter.com/mayorstanton

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ON Media Publications

Every day and evening on stages, in galleries and amidst our native landscape thoughts are put into action, words are bestowed with meaning and we are offered the opportunity to become participants in the dynamism of creativity. The American poet Walt Whitman understood the inviolable interplay of listener to speaker, viewer to performer, "To have great poets, there must be great audiences, too."

ON Media Publications plays an important role in forging these alliances. Our company is near its fourth decade of providing a high-quality permanent record, a written archive, for 26 of the state's premier arts and cultural destinations. Each year, two million readers turn to our publications to gain insight into our state's top performers, both on stage and throughout our community. Our program books, visitor guides and magazines set the stage for a lively exchange of ideas, viewpoints and opportunities.

One of the many benefits I enjoy in my role with ON Media Publications is the opportunity to collaborate and connect with the talented people within Arizona's thriving creative community. Studies support a robust arts community as being one of a city's greatest assets. Our company understands this: Investing in the arts makes good business sense.

Arts education is imperative for our state to develop and maintain a creative and competitive edge in a modern global marketplace. My husband Russell and I both benefited from the many visits to museums, concerts and dance performances arranged by the public schools we attended in Minnesota and Arizona. We believe that our early childhood engagement with the arts and culture in our community broadened our understanding of the world around us and should be an essential component of every child's education.



Unfortunately due to lack of funding less than fifty percent of Arizona public schools provide integrated arts education in the curriculum. We launched Act One Foundation to address this need by providing the necessary resources for underserved schools to benefit from the opportunities we were fortunate to experience. In its second year, the foundation doubled its educational initiatives expanding into Southern Arizona and impacted the lives of over 15,000 students.

On behalf of ON Media Publications and Act One Foundation we applaud everyone for bringing your voice to the chorus of our collective history. I encourage you to continue to speak, clearly and confidently, in your community, your state and your country. Growth and sustainability of the arts and culture community depends on the future vision and passion of our leaders.

*Linda "Mac" Perlich, President and Publisher
ON Media Publications*

Special Guest

Tania Katan is an award-winning author, keynote speaker and solo-performer. Her memoir *My One-Night Stand With Cancer* has received the Stonewall Book Award, Publishing Triangle Award, and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Rock-n-Roller Melissa Etheridge said of Katan's book, "This book rocks! It's passionate, playful,



and downright beautiful." Katan has appeared on NPR's Snap Judgment, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, ACT Seattle, Painted Bride Art Center, Comedy Central Stage, TEDx, and more. Her performances and published work have been written about in the *New York Times*, *Huffington*

Post, *GLAMOUR*, and other publications. Currently, Katan is the "Producer of Shenanigans" at Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art Lounge (SMoCA Lounge). For more info about her unruly museum programs visit: www.smocalounge.org. For more info about her writing, speaking and performance work visit: www.taniakatan.com.



Pictured: 2012 Arizona *Poetry Out Loud* State Finalists, Joshua Furtado, Tucson High Magnet School; Travis Marino, Freedom Christian Academy, Queen Creek; India Parsons, Westview High School, Avondale; and John DiMino, Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix. Photo Credit: Joe Jankovsky.

"One of the benefits of the program is that it offers an incentive to students to memorize a poem that is related to higher education and scholarship. It is based on their love of literature, their ability to perform publicly, and their individual desire to reach an attainable goal. Students gained confidence in themselves, because they proved to themselves they could learn and retain a poem."

— Marie-Elise Wheatwind, Participating Teacher,
Tucson High Magnet School

Recitation Schedule

Welcome to the Eighth Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

7:00 – 9:00pm

Eight, Arizona PBS
555 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Welcome

**Robert C. Booker, Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts**

Tania Katan, Emcee

First Round

Break

Second Round

Guest Reading

Announcement of Four Finalists

Final Round Break

Announcement of State Champion and Runner-Up

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that begins in the classroom and culminates with the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington D.C. By inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theatre into the English class, Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry by studying, memorizing and performing some of the most influential and timeless poems of the English language. Through Poetry Out Loud, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

A program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**, Poetry Out Loud is delivered in all 50 states and three territories through partnerships with the State Arts Agencies. The Arizona Poetry Out Loud program is managed and supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

This evening's event, the **2013 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**, is hosted by Eight, Arizona PBS and proudly presented by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, in partnership with Arizona State University's Young Writers Program and the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

About Poetry Out Loud

Participation in Arizona Poetry Out Loud continues to grow with over 13,000 students and 160 teachers from across the state participating in the program this year. We congratulate all participating teachers and students on a successful year of Poetry Out Loud in their classrooms and at their schools!

This year, 56 student finalists represented their high schools at three regional competitions: Central, Northern and Southern. Three finalists were selected at each regional competition and these nine students will be competing this evening for the title of **Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion**. The winner of the 2013 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals will receive \$200 and the winner's school library will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library.

In addition, the Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion will receive an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to compete at the National Finals in Washington D.C., April 28-30, 2013. The Poetry Out Loud National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Contest Structure and Evaluation Criteria. 2013 Arizona Poetry Out Loud includes three levels of competition: School Finals, Regional Competitions and the State Finals.

School Finals. Each participating high school held a school contest at the end of their Poetry Out Loud unit or program. The top scoring students from each school final advanced to their region's competition.

Regional Competitions. A total of 56 students competed at three regional competitions; central, northern and southern. At each regional competition, students recited two poems; the scores of these poems were tallied and the three students with the highest scores advanced to the state finals.

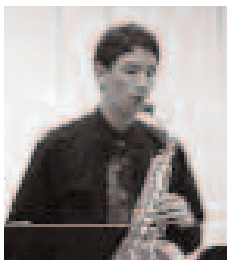
State Finals. Nine students—three from each region—will perform recitations in tonight's event. Each student will recite two poems, one in each of the first two rounds. The scores of these two recitations will be tallied and the four students with the highest scores will recite a third poem in a final round of recitations. The score of the third poem will be added to each of the students' first set of scores. The highest scoring student will be named the Arizona State Champion; the second highest scoring student, the First Place Runner-up.

Scoring in Poetry Out Loud is cumulative between judges' scores and from round to round, however scores from previous competitions do not carry over to subsequent contests.

Each student will be evaluated on a scale from one (very weak) to six (outstanding) using the following criteria: **Physical Presence, Voice and Articulation, Dramatic Appropriateness, Level of Difficulty, Evidence of Understanding and Overall Performance**. Additionally, a maximum of eight points will be assigned for accuracy.

For more information on Poetry Out Loud, visit www.poetryoutloud.org or www.azarts.gov/pol.

Student Finalists



Matthew "Ryan" Frankel
Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix

"A Locked House" by W.D. Snodgrass

"Death Be Not Proud" by John Donne

Ryan, a junior, is assistant editor of the school literary magazine, involved in speech and debate teams, musical theater and community service. He plays jazz saxophone at Scottsdale Community College and recently won a scholarship to study Mandarin in China. He enjoys swimming, hiking and playing tennis.



Jessica Gonzalez
Nogales High School, Nogales

"The Way It Sometimes Is" by Henry Taylor

"Beautiful Wreckage" by W.D. Ehrhart

Jessica is a senior and has been interested in poetry since a young age. This year, she was able to overcome her fear of public speaking through *Poetry Out Loud*. She has a passion for all things creative and hopes to pursue graphic design. She is ready to represent Nogales at the state level at *Poetry Out Loud*.



Adriana Hurtado
Tri-City College Preparatory, Prescott

"The Cities Inside Us" by Alberto Rios

"Much Madness is Divinest Sense (620)" by Emily Dickinson

Adriana is a sophomore at Tri-City Preparatory High School. She is active in creative writing and is a member of the softball team.



Annais Lopez Sanchez
Westview High School, Avondale

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou

"Sonnet XVIII: Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?" by William Shakespeare

Annais is an 18-year-old senior at Westview High. She's hoping to make a difference in people's lives through Politics and Law and adores participating in Choir and Theatre.



Tiffany Newell
Kingman High School, Kingman

"Dirge in Woods" by George Meredith

"Their Bodies" by David Wagoner

Tiffany is a junior at Kingman High School. She was born in the city of Kingman and has lived there all of her life. She has been a participant in *Poetry Out Loud* since her freshman year. She enjoys reading, writing, poetry, music, taking photos, collecting records and cameras, playing with her rats and going on epic adventures.

Student Finalists



Mark Anthony Niadas
St. Augustine Catholic High School, Tucson

"The Man with the Hoe" by Edwin Markham
"You Charm'd Me Not With That Fair Face" by John Dryden

Mark is passionate about acting, having performed in several productions at St. Augustine. He also enjoys being on the track team and spending time with friends. Mark, a committed member of Campus Ministry, hopes to attend UNLV, Maryland State or Abilene Christian to study either business or psychology.



Nathan Poston
Glendale Preparatory, Glendale

"Ego" by Denise Duhamel
"The Collar" by George Herbert

Nathan is a 15-year-old sophomore at Glendale Preparatory Academy planning to attend Brigham Young University. He enjoys great books, basketball, Thai food and swing dancing.



Mackinzi Taylor
Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona

"The Golden Shovel" by Terrance Hayes
"Ode" by Arthur O'Shaughnessy

Mackinzi, a senior, is a veteran slam poet, music lover, book worm, caffeine fiend and avid hiker. She hopes to attend the University of Colorado, Boulder to major in architecture and creative writing.



Cassandra Valadez
Sunnyside High School, Tucson

"As Kingfishers Catch Fire" by Gerard Manley Hopkins
"Dirge Without Music" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

Cassandra is a senior and DECA Chapter President. She is a highly motivated individual whose ability to achieve her goals and help others is a skill to be commended. Her passion lies within youth empowerment. There is no limit to her potential, as whatever she does, she does intensely. She hopes to go to the College of the Ozarks.

Judges



Korbi Adams is an arts education advocate, teaching artist and musician throughout the Phoenix community. She serves as a core team member with the Emerging Arts Leaders of Phoenix, a Hospice of the Valley volunteer musician, and a teaching artist with Rising Youth Theatre. She is in her fifth year at Childsplay, a professional theatre for young audiences and families in Tempe, Arizona. Korbi attended Arizona State University and holds a B.A. in Music and a Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management.



Roberto Bedoya is the Executive Director of the Tucson Pima Arts Council. He is a writer and arts consultant who works in the area of support systems for artists. He has worked on projects for the Creative Capital Foundation and the Arizona Commission on the Arts (*Creative Capital's State Research Project*), The Ford Foundation (*Mapping Native American Cultural Policy*), The Ford and Rockefeller Foundations (*Creative Practice in the 21st Century*), and The Urban Institute (*Investing in Creativity: A Study of the Support Structure for US Artists and the Arts and Culture Indicators in Community Building Project*).



Tenor **David Britton** lived and worked in New York City for two decades as a professional singer and sang with most of the major symphony orchestras and opera companies in the United States. With over 100 Opera and Musical Theater roles plus hundreds of concert, oratorio and chamber pieces to his credit, he also performed internationally in Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle East. He received his music education at the University of North Texas, The Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School.



Phyllis Bunch is a native Arizonan with a Bachelor's Degree in Theater Education from Arizona State University, where she served as the House Manager of the University Theater. As a Drama Teacher/Theater Director she taught at Horizon High School, Saguaro High School and Arcadia High School. She was active at Actor's Lab Arizona and the Phoenix Children's Theater where she supervised and directed child and teen workshops. She has directed dozens of plays and musicals.



Linda "Mac" Perlich is the President and Publisher of ON Media Publications, which publishes for 26 of Arizona's leading arts and cultural organizations. Her long standing concern and commitment to her community is exhibited in Board leadership roles with Teach for America Phoenix, Arizona Theatre Company, Ballet Arizona, The Herberger Theatre Center and Arizona School for the Arts. She and her husband Russell are co-founders of Act One Foundation which provides resources for arts educational field trips and in-classroom enrichment workshops to underserved schools throughout Arizona.

Thank You

The **Arizona Commission on the Arts** would like to thank the following 2012-2013 Arizona Poetry Out Loud partners and sponsors.

Central Region Partner

Arizona State University's Young Writers Program (YWP) provides the K-12 community with arts-based, standard-aligned creative writing opportunities through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Young Writers Program utilizes a variety of arts-based strategies designed to create early positive arts experience that increase chances for student achievement.

Southern Region Partner

The **University of Arizona Poetry Center** in Tucson is a living archive, founded in 1960, to maintain and cherish the spirit of poetry. The Poetry Center promotes poetic literacy and sustains, enriches and advances a diverse literary culture. An internationally renowned poetry library, the Poetry Center sponsors numerous programs, including readings and lectures, classes and workshops, writing residencies, discussion groups, contests, exhibitions, K-12 educational resources, field trips and online curricula.

State Finals Host

Eight, Arizona PBS specializes in the education of children, in-depth news and public affairs, lifelong learning and the celebration of arts and culture—utilizing the power of noncommercial television, the Internet, educational outreach services and community-based initiatives. The PBS station began broadcasting from the campus of Arizona State University on January 30, 1961. Now more than 80 percent of Arizonans receive the signal through a network of translators, cable and satellite systems. With more than 1 million viewers each week, Eight consistently ranks among the most-viewed public television stations per capita in the country.

Sponsors

ON Media Productions is the leader in performance program books and visitor guides for Arizona. The company is in its 35th year of providing a high-quality product for 24 of the state's premier arts and cultural destinations, including five of Arizona's top rated tourist attractions. Each year, two million readers turn to their publications for the insightful and engaging content that ON Media Publications provides.

National Sponsors

The **National Endowment for the Arts** is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.

